



Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Change- January 2009

In 1994, the national Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, a federal entitlement program, began to provide vaccines at no cost to VFC-eligible children through enrolled public and private providers. All children 0-18 years of age who are Medicaid enrolled or Medicaid eligible, uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native, or underinsured are eligible to receive VFC vaccine. The VFC program covers most children who do not have insurance coverage.

Since 1994 the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) has provided all or most vaccines to all children in NV at no cost; however, due to the drastic decreases in funding coupled with increasing vaccine costs a critical decision had to be made. The NSIP decided to change its immunization policy to Vaccines For Children (VFC) only as of **January 1, 2009**.

The NSIP *will continue* to provide vaccines for children who are eligible for the VFC program as well as the "Nevada Check Up" children. Many health insurance plans cover vaccines; however, there are many variations from one health plan to another. If your patient's insurance does not cover vaccines they are considered **underinsured** and may be eligible to receive free VFC vaccines at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC), but this can prevent a child from receiving vaccinations in their medical home. Deputization can change this.

An FQHC or RHC can delegate its authority to another medical provider to administer the VFC vaccine to VFC eligible children- **this is deputization**. Deputization eliminates cost as a barrier to the underinsured population and keeps children in their medical home, rather than being referred to an FQHC or RHC. Studies have shown that children are most likely to be immunized on time if they have a single medical home and as few visits with providers as necessary. Additionally if a parent must pay out-of-pocket expenses each time their child is vaccinated, this can become a barrier to consistent well-child visits.

The NSIP is currently accepting Delegation of Authority applications from existing VFC providers. For more information on this transition, as well as the Delegation of Authority form, please visit www.health.nv.gov.

WebIZ Newsletter

Introducing WebIZ Staff

The WebIZ team has grown and we would like to introduce our three new staff members.

Marie Tasker, Southern Nevada Training Manager, comes to WebIZ with 10 years experience with the American Red Cross and has a master's degree in Organizational Management. Marie is responsible for training and recruiting new providers in



Marie Tasker

Southern Nevada. Victor Lamas recently joined the WebIZ team as "frontline" help desk support.

Victor is responsible for answering the help desk phone line and setting up new providers and users in the system. Prior to WebIZ, Victor worked for the Nevada State Health



Division's Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH), staffing the MCH Health line for new mothers. Hilary Smith, Health Program Specialist, is a new addition to the WebIZ team. She is a recent graduate from the School of Public Health at the University of Nevada Reno. Hilary earned her bachelor of science in the health ecology program. Welcome to WebIZ.

WebIZ Software Upgrade

Nevada WebIZ is getting an upgrade! Just as the other software we use every day issues new versions of its programs, WebIZ is coming out with Version 8.0. In this new version, there are some wonderful new features, such as new dynamic reports, more accurate vaccine recommendations and a more customizable patient reminder function. The WebIZ staff is hard at work reviewing the upgraded version of the site and hopes to deploy it to you, the users, around the beginning of 2009. If you are part of the WebIZ email distribution list, keep your eyes on your email inbox for information on the deployment date.



WEBIZ COMMUNITY

Provider Spotlight

Lake Mead Pediatrics, North Las Vegas

DR. EMMANUEL TAGUBA runs the Lake Mead Pediatrics office in North Las Vegas, where he and his staff create a friendly, calm environment for children and their parents. Melinda (Lynn) Miciano, who processes billing and records immunizations in WebIZ, greets patients as they pass the beautifully painted fish covered walls. On average the office immunizes 150 patients each month and many more during the demanding back-to-school season.

Lake Mead Pediatrics started using WebIZ in October 2005. Because Dr. Taguba is a Vaccine for Children (VFC) provider, he decided to use the registry to aid in his VFC reporting requirements to the state Immunization Program. To fulfill the state's requirements, they signed up for level 3 usage to be able to track doses administered and manage their inventory.

They have a process for incorporating WebIZ into their daily routine which enables them to track patients, track inventory, and easily report required VFC information to the state supplied vaccine program. Lake Mead Pediatrics does not have fully implemented electronic medical record (EMR) software; therefore, the nurse records the patient's WebIZ identification number on their chart. After the nurse sees a patient, she gives the chart to Lynn to process the billing and record the vaccinations into WebIZ. At the end of each day, Lynn runs a dosage report to check that the doses administered by the nurse match the information in WebIZ.



Melinda Miciano

Dr. Taguba understands the importance of populating the statewide immunization registry. After he began using WebIZ, he and his staff created WebIZ records for their new patients and after about two and half years they have entered 97% of their existing patient records into the system. Among his peers of providers, Dr. Taguba publicly advocates using WebIZ because he knows it helps save time searching for a record from another office and it helps prevent potential duplicate vaccinations. In addition, Dr. Taguba makes sure his staff carefully search and input data into the registry as it can only be as good as the information that users put in.

This past back-to-school season, their office was able to assist many parents in printing their child's official immunization record for school entry as well as administering any needed shots. **Because the fall is so busy with school entry requirements, using WebIZ has helped to save a lot of time and energy.** Dr. Taguba can't imagine not using WebIZ.

Pharmacy Regulations

Effective September 18, 2008, the adopted amended regulations of the State Board of Pharmacy, Section 6 ([R115-08](#)), declare: A pharmacist or intern pharmacist acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist who administers immunizations shall report the information required for inclusion in the Immunization Information System established by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to [NRS 439.265](#) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.



WEBIZ LESSONS

WebIZ Lesson “Closing Patient Programs”

Tips on managing your patient roster to accurately reflect the patients you serve

WebIZ functions with the concept of a patient having a “Primary Care Provider,” sometimes called a “medical home.” It does this by entering a patient into an “Immunization Program.” If you serve as the Primary Care Provider for a patient, you should be the “owner” (aka “Default Clinic”) of their WebIZ record. ***Managing your Patient Programs on a regular basis helps your office maintain an accurate vaccine coverage level rate- especially important for VFC assessments!!***

To see if you are the default clinic for a patient record, locate the patient record, go to the “Demographics” screen and click on the “Default Clinic” button at the top of the screen.

There are two ways to become a patient’s default clinic: When you create a new record, your office automatically becomes the default clinic. On an existing record, when you record a vaccination that has been administered in your office, your office automatically becomes the default clinic.

What happens if my office is no longer the Primary Care Provider?

If your patient moves away, begins seeing a different provider, has ignored your reminders, or has completed their childhood vaccinations, you may close their patient program in WebIZ to “cut the tie” between your office and the patient. To do so, locate the patient record and click on “Programs.” You should see an “open date” indicating when that patient was entered into the “Immunization Program”- click on “Update” on the right side of the screen. Next, enter a “close date”- this should be the date you were notified or decided that you will no longer be seeing that patient. Then, enter a “close reason”- there should be a reason in the dropdown list appropriate to your situation. Enter any notes you wish in the “Comments” field and click “Update.”

What happens if we are only seeing a patient for one or two doses?

If your office is not going to be a patient’s Primary Care Provider, but you are giving the patient vaccinations, you may “disown” the record one of two ways:

1. *If you had to create a new WebIZ record:* record the vaccination and immediately close the patient program, making the close date the same as the vaccination date.



Dear WebIZ,

Question: One of our WebIZ users no longer works here. How do I close their account?

Answer: To close a user account, you may either email the help desk (izit@health.nv.gov) or fax in a completed WebIZ Change Form. If you do not have a blank change form, call or email the WebIZ help desk.

Question: I’m trying to record a vaccination administered in our office, but I don’t see it in the dropdown list.

Answer: The dropdown list on the “Add” screen is filtered by your patient’s age and vaccination history. Vaccines are licensed for specific age ranges- these age ranges are listed in the package insert that comes with your vaccine shipment. These age ranges are then programmed into WebIZ. For example, Tdap would *not* show up for a 70 year old patient, but it would for a 63 year old. If you did give a shot to a patient outside of the licensed age range, you should still record the vaccination. To do so, call the help desk for assistance. Have your patient’s information ready- it only take a few minutes to record.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WEBIZ LESSON CONTINUED

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2. *If the patient had an existing record:* when recording the vaccination, check the box on the "Quick Add" (for Type 1) or "Add Vaccination" (for Types 2 & 3) screen that says "Do not set this clinic as the Default Clinic for this Patient." **This would be especially appropriate for mass flu vaccination clinics.**

Closing a Patient Program does not delete the patient record. If the patient moves back and you again become their Primary Care Provider, their patient program will be reopened upon the recording of a vaccination and your office will again become the "owner" of their record.

TRAINING

Nevada WebIZ offers training sessions in locations around the state. Attendance is recommended for all new WebIZ users. All WebIZ Training sessions are offered at no cost.

WebIZ training sessions teach basic navigation, how to find and manage patient records and how to record vaccinations, including capturing vaccine lot details.

We also want to provide videoconferencing options. Please let us know if you have facilities in your area.

For Northern Nevada training contact the WebIZ helpdesk and for Southern Nevada training contact Marie Tasker. See contact info to the left.

Effective October 2008, all Advanced training sessions have been cancelled and will not be provided until further notice. Scheduled sessions will provide enough guidance to properly use the system.

WebIZ Fun Facts

Renown was the first hospital to initiate the "Cocooning Project." The Cocooning Project was designed to increase adult pertussis vaccinations by administering Tdap vaccines to parents at hospitals when babies are born. To learn more about the project click [here](#).

In 2008, WebIZ signed up and trained 774 users! Let's make 2009 a record breaking year.

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